

CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
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Indian Tribes of Alaska

## CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA Seventy-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly April 9-12, 2014 Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 14-19

Title: Test Traditional and Customary Foods and Gathering Areas

By: Seattle Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 29,000 tribal citizens worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Central Council Constitution Article VII - Section 1 states, "The governing body of the Central Council shall be comprised of the Tribal Assembly of delegates, and, consistent with the terms of this Constitution, the Executive Council. The governing body of the Central Council shall possess sovereign and plenary power to legislate for and to govern, conduct and manage the affairs and property of the Tribe, including, without limitation, the following:

- m. To exercise the power of eminent domain over land or interests therein within the territory and jurisdiction of the Tribe in conformance with applicable federal law; and
- o. To enact resolutions, regulations, and statutes to safeguard and promote the peace, health, safety and general welfare of the Tribe in conformance with applicable federal law"; and

WHEREAS, tribal citizens have been experiencing an inexplicable increase in health problems and it is not known if this is an environmental problem; and

WHEREAS, there exists an increase in marine traffic throughout Southeast Alaska and the dumping of waste and toxic materials occurs in sensitive Native subsistence food areas; and

WHEREAS, there are potential devastating effects from the Japan earthquake and tsunami; and

WHEREAS, the inherent right to harvest and use our traditional and customary foods includes the protection through cultural stewardship of the environment and resources we use; and

WHEREAS, the federal, state and local authorities are lawfully empowered and legally required to protect our right to healthy subsistence foods.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 9-12, 2014, will either reallocate funds or find new funding to support a formal subsistence program which includes conducting ongoing testing of our traditional foods and traditional food gathering areas to ensure the integrity for safe consumption, working in collaboration with individual Tribal Citizens who gather the many varieties of seafood as the Harbor Seal Commission does, and all other pertinent entities, i.e. the Alaska Native Science Commission and health organizations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska desires to fully and completely protect subsistence foods and gathering areas from any commercial activity that has the potential to injure our people through ingestion of contaminated food and/or the environment thereof.

ADOPTED this 12th day of April 2014, by the Seventy-Ninth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY** 

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw